

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for registering a process in a system where communication events occur that are related to notifications, the method comprising:

receiving a message to register a process for communication events;

in response to receiving the message, registering the process, wherein the registered process is a program that has data regarding a user that is outside data maintained by other components of the system; and

when a communication event occurs, evaluating a sender according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein one type of communication event occurs when a notification from a sender is not delivered to a user due to a [[the]] user's context.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2[[3]], wherein in response to receiving a communication event, the registered process may provide a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data about the user.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the data about the user includes at least one alternative contact for the user.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for registering a process in a user context system, comprising:

sending a message for registering a process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user that is outside the data maintained by the other components of the system;

when a communication event occurs, evaluating a sender according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message, and

providing the registered process with information regarding the communication event.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the communication event is related to a notification that is sent from a sender to a user.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the information regarding the communication event indicates that the notification did not reach the user.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the information regarding the communication event includes a copy of the notification.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9[[13]], wherein the data provided to the registered process comprises data regarding the user's activities.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9[[13]], wherein the registered process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data regarding the user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media on which are stored machine instructions including instructions for a [[A]]notification system, the notification system comprising:

a sending component which sends notifications;

a user context process for setting a user context and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule are made available to a user for modification in accordance with a preference of the user;

a receiving component which receives [[the]]notifications from a sending component and under specified conditions delivers the notifications to the[[a]] user; and

a registered process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user that is outside the data maintained by the other components of the system;

wherein when the sending component sends a notification to the receiving component, if the notification is not delivered to the user then a message is sent to the registered process regarding the non-delivery of the notification and wherein a sender who is associated with the sending component is evaluated according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, the evaluation of the sender comprising determination of whether ~~or not~~ the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

18. (Currently Amended) The media system—of Claim 17, wherein the specified conditions under which a notification will not be delivered to a user are determined according to a user context.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The media system—of Claim 17[[19]], wherein in response to receiving a message regarding the non-delivery of a notification the registered process provides a customized message to the sending component that includes data about the user.

21. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 20, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

22. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 20, wherein the data about the user indicates at least one alternative contact for the user.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media on which are stored machine instructions including instructions for a [[A]]user context system, the user context system comprising:

a first process for setting a user context and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule are made available to a user for modification in accordance with at least one preference of the user;

a second process for generating a notification; and

a third process that is registered;

wherein the registered third process receives an event message in response to the[[a]] notification not being delivered to the[[a]]user, and wherein a[[the]] sender of the notification is evaluated according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered third process will send a customized message to the sender when the[[a]] notification does not reach the user, the evaluation of the sender comprising a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

26. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 25, wherein the second process is a communication program.

27. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 26, wherein the communication program comprises one of an email or instant messaging program.

28. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 25, wherein the registered third process is a program that has data regarding the user that is outside the data that is maintained by the other components of the system.

29. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process is a calendaring program that has data regarding the user's scheduled activities.

30. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification which includes information regarding the user.

31. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 30, wherein the customized message indicates a time when the user may next be available.

32. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 25, wherein the user context that is set by the first process indicates when the user is not available to interruption.

33. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 32, wherein when the third process receives an event message indicating that a notification was not delivered to the user, the registered third process sends a customized message indicating when the user may next be available.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The media system of Claim 25, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed in a category that the user has selected.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media for providing information regarding communication events, at least one communication event occurring when a notification is not delivered to a user, said media comprising:

a set of computer-usable instructions for a computer-implemented method that cause a request to provide a communication event to a process that is registered for communication events to be communicated to one or more other computer-program segments capable of executing said request, wherein in response to receiving the communication event, the registered process evaluates a [[the]] sender of the notification to determine if a customized message will be sent, the evaluation of the sender comprising a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message, and

a set of computer-readable instructions for a computer-implemented method
that enable setting user context and at least one user rule, the user context and the
at least one user rule are made available to the user for the modification in
accordance with the preferences of the user.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 37[[38]], further comprising computer-readable instructions for enabling the evaluation of a notification in accordance with the user context in order to determine whether the notification will be delivered to the user.

40. (Original) The media of Claim 39, wherein if the notification is not delivered to the user, then a communication event occurs which is delivered to the registered process.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 37, wherein if a customized message is sent, the customized message is made to include data about the user.

43. (Original) The media of Claim 42, wherein the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.